

## WRITTEN PRODUCT #3

Contact: CDEM Public Affairs (800) 555-6793

Saturday, December 12, 2009

### **Stay safe from chemical spills and terrorist attacks**

CAPITAL CITY – The Columbia Department of Emergency Management (CDEM) urges citizens to stay away from exit 9b on the cross-state Turnpike to avoid injury or death from a potentially dangerous chemical spill. Chemical agents can include poisonous gases, liquids, or solids that have toxic and lethal effects on victims. Do not attempt to rescue a victim of a chemical attack—you may become a victim yourself, say experts. \

If you are **at home** when officials indicate **evacuation** is necessary:

- Gather emergency supplies of food, clothing and water.
- If you are instructed to do so by local authorities, turn off all utilities at the main switch and close the main gas valve.
- Secure your dwelling by closing and locking windows and doors.
- Make arrangements for your pets. Public shelters may not allow pets.
- As soon as you are ordered to evacuate, do so promptly.
- Tell someone outside of the area where you are going.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes—shortcuts may be blocked.

If you are **at work** when officials indicate **evacuation** is necessary:

- Listen to your radio for guidance on protective actions.
- Follow your employer's instructions to shelter in place or evacuate.